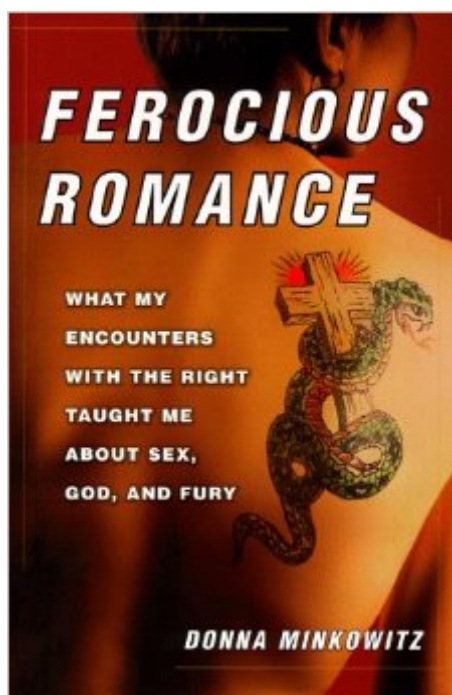


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# Ferocious Romance: What My Encounters With The Right Taught Me About Sex, God, And Fury



## Synopsis

In *Ferocious Romance*, Donna Minkowitz meets her worst enemies -- and discovers herself in the process. On assignment for *The Village Voice*, Minkowitz reported on the religious groups of the far right. She went to a Christian Coalition convention disguised as a delegate, infiltrated the Promise Keepers (disguised as a man) for an award-winning article in *Ms.*, and spent a week with a pastor who protests at the funerals of gay men who died of AIDS. But as this radical lesbian feminist went undercover and got to know her "subjects", she was startled to learn how much she had in common with the activists she feared and opposed. As Minkowitz discovered parallels between the extremes of religious fundamentalism on the right and sexual liberation groups on the left, she began to explore the connections between love and hate, between victim and victimizer. The result is a personal story of one woman's battle with her inner demons -- and a startling overview of our contemporary wars of sex, religion, and gender.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Journalist Minkowitz goes undercover in different Religious Right groups (including the Promise Keepers and a Christian ladies' makeover seminar) and compares the desires she sees expressed in these groups to those she sees expressed among her own queer Left. She starts out seeing the Religious Right as enemies, and without changing her fundamental political views, she discovers that desires for connection, unconditional love, ecstasy, transcendence and transformation shape both of these opposing movements. A fascinating and interesting read!

I can't remember the last time I read a book that I immediately wanted to read again. Minkowitz's narrative of sex, gay rights and the Christian Right is one of those books that you could read twice in a row and be enriched in new ways the second time. It would have been easy for Minkowitz to bash the Promise Keepers and Focus on the Family -- instead, she seeks connection with them on matters of faith, healing and ecstasy. She also makes startling connections between S/M and Christianity that will surprise you and make you think. Minkowitz never falters in her condemnation of the Right for its stance on matters of the family, sexuality and gay rights -- yet her ability to find connections with her political enemies and discover common ground are inspiring. Hands down the smartest, funniest and most moving book I've read all year. A must read for anyone interested in religion, love, sex, violence, anger and forgiveness -- in other words, just about everyone.

This book was about an extremely liberal lesbian who went undercover to a number of right-wing religious events such as a promise keepers rally (where she disguised herself as a 16-year-old boy) the Toronto Blessing, which was a famous super Pentecostal group that was so over-the-top it was even kicked out of its own denomination, a Christian ministry that did makeovers for women, and a meeting with focus on the family executives.. I found her observations very interesting, I always wondered what goes on in promise keepers rallies where no women are allowed. The First-hand account of the Toronto Blessing was good too. but I have no idea what the chapter on sadomasochism was doing in the book. All it did was gross me out and make me dislike the author. Plus I found it boring. I just didn't see why she went on and on about it so much. I understand she was trying to draw a correlation between extreme religion and sadomasochism, but I had a hard time understanding the points that she was trying to make with this. I understand that both these things can be cathartic and provoke strong emotions, but I think she overstates the connection, or rather, that pretty much the whole connection is only in her own somewhat warped mind. I found myself really disliking her during and after that chapter, which was kind of unfortunate. That chapter turned me off so much that I'm knocking a whole star off my rating and gave it 3 stars, because just left such a bad taste in my mouth

Whew, Minkowitz really bit off a huge chunk here. From infiltrating the Promise Keepers (and oh what a controlling bunch that is!), to interviewing the right wing "Focus" staff, she leaves no stone unturned and no sacred cow undefiled. As a lesbian and a writer, she sought to expose the right wing ultraconservative religious factions, but ended up identifying with them on many levels. I got

this book because I wanted to read her explorations and hopefully, her exposing of their frailties .... but was disappointed that she did little exposing. The christian groups she visited seemed more pitiful than volcanic. I wanted more in the way of bashing, I guess. As a survivor of sexual abuse at the hand of an evangelical minister, I wanted her to say more about the hypocrisy that exists in right wing christian churches, not to identify with them. I wanted more of a down and dirty expose' of their manipulation and scare tactics. I wanted her to validate what I had experienced in the guise of religion. I wanted her to stand up in the "glamour" workshop and get that makeover, and proclaim that she is lesbian.... and she didn't. Her juxtaposition of an S/M lifestyle with the ultraconservative religious right seemed out of place, but gave the reader an insight as to where she is as an individual. Intersting read, great prose, excellent imagery, but I hoped for more.

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